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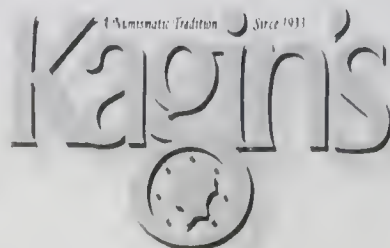
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Fort Ross

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editor's observations.....

This edition of the *Brasher Bulletin* features articles submitted by both first-timers and the return of some long lost columnists. We welcome back Jim Vallier, our Pioneer of the Year in 2007 with two submissions. Not only did Jim gather and report on the key lots of the Token Auction Highlights, we also reviewed Peter Spooner's *Arizona Trade Tokens* guide.

The welcome mat rolls out first-time contributor Lena Taylor, who was prompted to write a piece on the Russian Pioneers and their settlement at Fort Ross. After a tour of the area during a road trip over President's Day weekend, Lena became interested in finding what mediums of exchange were present at the fort. Her article details the origins of the Russian settling of the area and presents the Russian American Company private scrip in the form of the famous "Walrus/ Seal Skin Money" that was used at Fort Ross.

A special thanks goes out to Cherie Schoeps for her multiple submissions that significantly adds to this issue. Cherie compiled an extensive listing of the prices realized for the Eliasberg Sale of Cal Fractional Gold (Auction Highlights, page 18), submitted a Q & A with Stack's cataloger John Pack on the subject, and also our first blog, reprinted with permission from author Ryan Baum, a California Gold Rush enthusiast and Wells Fargo executive.

Last to thank (but definitely not least), we have another interesting article from SPPN member George Hull, who discusses Wyatt Earp's time as a gold miner.

I hope all of you enjoyed our last special Collector's Edition, which premiered new features and color. We have been receiving great feedback and hope to publish similar editions in the future. Special thanks to assistant editor and my right hand person, Lena Taylor who had to do all the hard work while I got to take credit for it.

We are working on the beginnings of an SPPN website, to be launched as pioneergold.com sometime in the near future. If you have any ideas of what this should look like and its features, please email Don@kagins.com. And I want to personally thank all of you who have responded to my queries concerning the second edition of *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States*. We really want this to be a community effort (like those Window 7 commercials).

Enjoy!

Don

S•P•P•N•

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Quarter Eagle

Ryan Baum Collection

San Francisco Forty-Eighters?

By Ryan Baum

Submitted by Cherie Schoeps

Over a century and a half ago, James Marshall's famous gold discovery, in the tailrace of John Sutter's recently completed lumber mill on the American River, easily ranks as one of the world's great events. While Concord's "shot heard round the world" was nearly instantaneous, the momentum of the gold rush actually took a while to gain momentum.

Here's a quick test: What year was that token nugget discovered?

Most people think 1849. The actual year was 1848. And it was even *early* in the year: January 24 to be precise! And technically this wasn't even the first gold discovery in California.

To understand the delay between the discovery and the actual rush, we need to study the speed of communication before Statehood, from California to the Eastern States. We also have to remember the skepticism of the people of news reports they read in the

papers.

The time was ripe for migration, given California was in the process of being ceded to the United States following the Mexican-American War and the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hildago, signed February 2, 1848 — a full week *after Marshall's discovery*.

First reports of the gold discovery arrived in San Francisco within a month and in the East during the summer. Few took notice, however. Even the military leadership in California was initially skeptical of the quantity of riches. Then a combination of marketing and bureaucratic reporting combined to ignite one of the greatest migrations in history.

The marketing started with the famous parade of Sam Brannan in May through the streets of San Francisco exclaiming gold on the American River while holding a bottle of gold. Since he had already cornered the market in mining supplies, the excitement he created drove up the prices of his goods many fold. Within weeks the town of San Francisco began to empty.

Following this jolt in San Francisco, the Military Governor and his staff began to research the mining resources. In July, Colonel Richard Barnes Mason and Lieutenant William T. Sherman personally toured the gold fields. In August they summarized their findings and sent them, along with 230 ounces of native gold, to the War Department in Washington. The report and the gold took four months to reach Washington, but when they got there, the reception was immense.

Upon formal confirmation from his military officers, President Polk reported the gold discoveries in his December State of the Union to Congress.

As further proof of their validity, the Secretary of War sent the first shipment of gold to the Philadelphia mint, where it was used for a series of war medals for the heroes of the Mexican American War and 1,389 "Quarter Eagle" gold coins with a \$2½ face value. In order to demonstrate to the public the California gold, these coins were stamped with "CAL." on their reverse above the eagle.

Eleven months after the gold discovery, the public now had their proof: Their Commander and Chief had presented it to Congress, and real California gold was circulating as money for all to see! The length of time for all this to happen is why San Francisco's football team is the 49ers, not the 48ers!



49er

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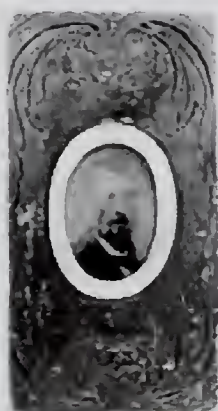
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NEVADA TREASURE CITY, WHITE PINE COUNTY 1870-DATED PRESENTATION INGOT

Silver, unmarked. Approximately 16 ¼ ounces. 68.7 mm x 36.1 mm x 21.1 mm.



Oval photograph, housed in gold-rimmed brass frame, measures 21.8 x 28.1 mm and is inset into an oval divot in the top face of the bar roughly 4 mm deep. The top face shows a leafy peripheral decoration. The broad bottom face is inscribed "J. G. Lee to John Lee" in fancy script, framed with an apparently hand-punched decoration around the periphery. The sides are engraved "Nevada" at top, "White Pine" at left, "1870" at base, and "Treasure City" at right. Deep gray toning covers most of the ingot, though the inscribed base has been lightly polished to brilliant silver gray. Some lighter gray coloration appears where the darker toning has worn through handling, such as the centers of the sides and the corners. A well made ingot, carefully smoothed and prepared for presentation. No bad marks are seen and, clearly, this has been well-maintained since its creation.

The inside of the oval space made for the photograph shows hand tooling marks and was somewhat crudely accomplished. A tiny fingernail gap just right of the top of the photograph allows for the intact photograph and frame to be removed and replaced, but the custom fit is tight enough that the photograph will not come out of the bar unless intended. The photograph, somewhat cloudy at top and sides, depicts a dark haired man, perhaps 35, with a neat goatee in a jacket and bow tie.

Treasure City is today a ghost town, located in White Pine County near Ely, Nevada, not far from the Utah border. Treasure City changed its name from Tesora in August 1869, at the height of the silver boom there. The town's population was well depleted by the end of 1870, when the mines started to show diminishing marginal returns, and just a few years later was all but a ghost town. Despite the usual ghost town accoutrements of saloons, general stores, brothels, and tens of thousands of miners, Treasure City and nearby Hamilton ceased to exist nearly as quickly as they had come into being.

No John Lees appear in the White Pine County census for 1870, which was taken during the first two weeks of June of that year. Needless to say, such censuses are always incomplete and often badly so. Deeper research could discover who these two Lees were and what their connection to the Treasure City region was.

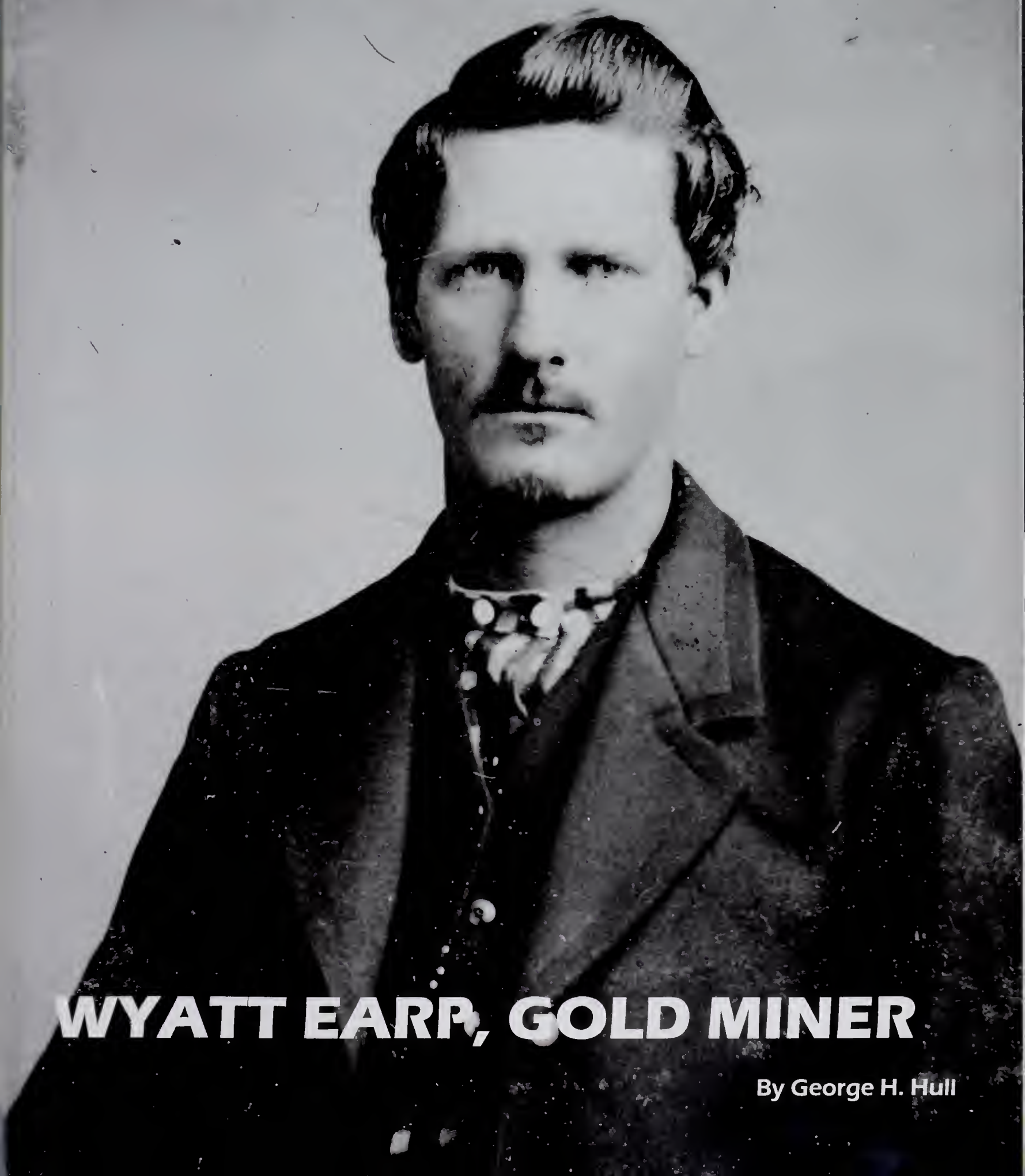
Three notable assayers were active in Hamilton, Nevada in 1870: Edward Ruhling, Sidney Van Wyck, and H.W. Theall. All are best known for their work in Virginia City, clear across the state, but set up offices in White Pine

County circa 1870 to capitalize on the boom there. Theall actually died in Hamilton in May 1869, and his business passed to Van Wyck's control. Van Wyck apparently lived in White Pine County himself, as he is listed in the census for 1870 as living in Hamilton, Nevada with his wife and four children. It seems likely that this unmarked presentation ingot was made by either Ruhling or Van Wyck.

Presentation ingots such as this could be given out for any imaginable reason, though the usual recipients seem to be those involved with ownership of or investment in the area's mines. While the Ford collection contained a number of interesting presentation ingots, including some from Nevada, none were so personal as to include a photograph of the presenter or recipient. We have never heard of a photographically illustrated ingot aside from this and would not be surprised to know it was unique. It is certainly the most distinctive Western assay ingot we can recall seeing or handling.

Image and description © Stacks.com

PIONEER SPOTLIGHT



WYATT EARP, GOLD MINER

By George H. Hull

After all the problems, excitement, and bloodshed in Tombstone, Arizona, Wyatt Earp left the site of the shoot-out at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone and left the state to begin a circuitous route to the gold fields of northern Idaho.

Having had a little experience in mining in Tombstone, he decided to follow the elephant in his personal search for wealth. This did not mean he was going on a toot, "but that he intended to take a flier at the mines." {1} He would pass through several western mining areas before landing in a newly discovered gold field in Eagle City, over eighty miles east of Fort Spokane, Washington.

On April 15, 1882 he left Tombstone for Silver City, New Mexico. From Silver City he went to Albuquerque, and then took the train to Gunnison and Trinidad,

Colorado where Bat Masterson, his friend, was the sheriff. Later in 1882 Wyatt and his brother Warren left Colorado and joined brother Virgil in San Francisco. Early in 1883, Wyatt and his wife Sadie left San Francisco and once again went to help Bat Masterson in Dodge City, Kansas. Early in 1884 Wyatt and at least one brother arrived in Eagle City, Idaho.

A prospector, A.J. Pritchard, had discovered gold on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River in 1882; on March 22, 1882 Pritchard filed his first claim in Pritchard Gulch. His claim was not named. Between March 22, 1883 and July 14, 1882 he



Murray, 1888

filed nine more claims. The news of this gold rush started the wandering Wyatt on his route to Idaho. He had a brother working in Virginia City, Montana, but it has been nearly impossible to determine from which town Wyatt and Josie boarded the train.

The train went through Thompson Fall, Montana, passed "Point of Sand" so named by David Thompson, the famed Canadian explorer of 1809, and on to Rathdrum, Idaho. "Wyatt, Josie and brother Jim boarded the stage of U.S. mail contractor McCoy" {2} and for the ride to Cocur d'Alene, Idaho where the stage trip ended at the Dividend Saloon on Sherman Street (named for Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman, who had established Fort Sherman on the shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene. They then took the steamer, Amelia Wheaton, to the Cataldo Mission on the east end of the lake. At the Mission, Wyatt met a man named Sam Hayes, who ran wagons to Tom Irwin's cabin at Evolution and a string of pack horses on over the divide to the North Fork River, and up to Eagle City.

Life was hard in the harsh climate of the northern part of Idaho

"Eagle was a hard looking place. Its structures located on lots from which snow, to the depth of five feet, had been excavated and dumped into the street, leaving sheer walls of snow between the buildings and the street. The hastily constructed camp had been chopped out of a dense forest of immense cedar and pines. Smoking chimney protruded from the tops of shake-roofed, log cabins and great tents loomed up in a seemingly endless variety." {3}

The Spokane Falls Review in an article printed on October 27, 1883, about an experienced mining man wrote, "George Henderson, Esq. Of Martinez, California is not one of those who take the word of another as to the value of a mine, or who travels with a pick and shovel chancing fortune with a pan. He has been schooled in the diggings of California, Nevada, Colorado and Arizona and is fully competent to pass judgment upon the worth or worthlessness of the gold region." {4} The paper on November 24, 1883 stated that there were 42 buildings in Hayes City (name later changed to Eagle City.) Because the promotions of the Northern Pacific Railroad quickly spread rumors, miners soon arrived from the Black Hills of South Dakota and the goldfields of Montana.

Wyatt and his wife rented a cabin on Eagle Street, and brother Jim rented one on Lee Street. Wyatt's cabin had two wood stoves, one being a Sibley sheet-iron wood stove. Wyatt and his brother soon were spending time at the Acion Saloon playing poker and faro. One of the players was William Keeler, foreman of the Widow's claim, staked by A.J. Pritchard, but given to two widows in Illinois and Michigan. Wyatt visited the Widow's claim and quickly sized up the gold mining prospects in the valley.

With the weather so bad and the prospecting and mining work so exhausting and draining, the community was unusually peaceful for a mining camp. However, a dispute arose between two groups of miners. Wyatt heard gunshots and after arming himself walked up the street to the confrontation. Soon joined by brother Jim, he saw a group of miners hiding behind trees and stumps firing into a cabin.

Sometime earlier he had acquired the title of Deputy Sheriff of Kootenai County. The two brothers stopped the shooting and almost immediately the sheriff of Shoshone County arrived and put an end to the dispute. Wyatt entered the cabin and disarmed the Buzard group. An old prospector, who lived in the Eagle City for decades, told of arriving May 10, 1884 after a walk of 39 miles. In a letter, still in existence, he wrote, "Bill Buzard and his gang got into a gun battle over a lot that they were building a house on. There was Bill Pain [Payne] whistling Dick, Danny Ferguson, was going to run Buzard off but they was confronted with a volley of 44 bullets. Buzzard and his gang had a pile of logs for breast works. The Payne gang was behind stumps, and telegraph poles which the splinter was flying off lively for a while. But they was poor shots for there was no casualty. - Just a few flesh wounds." {5}

Having had experience in several tough western towns as a lawman, prospector, and tavern owner, Wyatt soon resumed work in all three occupations. Previously mentioned was his part time job a deputy sheriff of Kootenai County even though Eagle City was located within the boundaries of Shoshone County in the Territory of Idaho. Seeing the money making potential fulfilling the needs for entertainment and thirst of the rapidly growing population of miners, he established a bar, called the White Elephant, at #12 Eagle Street. He paid \$132 for a tent



Hydraulic Mining, Eagle Creek

with complete furnishings. "The long, pointed-roofed tent was located north of and adjoining Sam Hayes' store next door to the Troy Laundry and Bath House. (This was later named the White Elephant Saloon)." {6} The first Eagle City directory listed the Earp Bros. as proprietors of the White Elephant Saloon behind Eagle City Bank in New Theater Building.

The Earp's had also invested in other real estate. James Earp had a lot on Lee Street, Wyatt had a cabin on Lot 5 Eagle Street; and Warren Earp was also listed in the directory. Wyatt had purchased the lot on May 1, 1884.

By March 15, 1884, Eagle City had grown into a town of one half mile of buildings on Main Street; almost every other building was a saloon or a gambling establishment. "Business was booming as increasing amounts of newly mined gold was shipped out daily via Wells Fargo and Company Express. For the lack of coin, gold dust and gold nuggets were accepted as currency. Heavy canvas bags filled with gold dust and nuggets were hauled by pack train up over the Bitterroots to the railhead at Belknap, Montana. From there, the precious cargo was hauled by train to the smelter at Helena, Montana." {7}

Before long, the dreamers who expected to pick up gold in the creeks and on the hillsides, became discouraged and moved on to the next camp at Murray, Idaho only a few miles away, or returned to civilization poorer than when they left their homes. For those who stayed and didn't mind hard work, there was a lot of gold in the streams and hillsides.

Wyatt and his brothers did not mind the struggle; they were running the White Elephant, and either buying mining claims or filing their own claims on open ground. On April 7, 1884, Wyatt and Jim, Enright, Holman and Ferguson paid \$500 to Florence

McCarthy for ten placer acres on Prichard Creek. Then they purchased one-half interest in the Bloomfield placer for \$5000 and lot 57 on Eagle Street from Fay Buzard for \$5000; they also paid Buzard \$2250 for a round circus-like duck tent that was 50 feet wide. On April 15 Wyatt's group paid one dollar to W.H."Fatty" Carroll of Fort Coeur d'Alene for part interest in the Point of Rock placer on Eagle Creek. On April 30th Wyatt paid W.R. Vaughn \$1000 for five acres in Dream Gulch; the same day W. Payne sued Wyatt over some town land in Eagle. Payne won and was awarded \$75. On May 1 Wyatt bought the Golden Gate claim on the east fork of Reeder Gulch. He never realized how close he was to a gold mine still being worked in 2008.

On May 10 Wyatt located the "Consolidated Grisly Bear" quartz claim. On the 11th of May he located the Dividend claim, two miles up Fancy Gulch. Their next location was the Dead Scratch claim on the slope of Bald Mt., about nine miles up the north fork of Eagle Creek; his partners in the Dead Scratch were Enright and Northam. The newspaper reported that the Dead Scratch yielded \$103.45 of gold and over \$10 of silver of free milling ore. On May 29, Jim Earp located the Jessie Jay claim on the West Fork of Reeder Gulch. On May 13th, Wyatt located the Emily Lode.

Of particular interest to this writer are five claims that he researched in the vaults of the Shoshone County courthouse and then proceeded to walk the ground covered by the claims.

On March 15, 1884 Wyatt located a claim on Eagle Creek two and three-quarters miles below Eagle City; he named it "Enola"; the adjoining claim was owned by a man named Reynolds. By April 2, he met the recorder, Frank Points, and recorded the claim. The five owners of the Enola were A.K. Holman,

W.J.Hudnall, Wyatt Earp, Samuel Allison, and John McEroy.

The next day, April 3, 1884, Wyatt located twenty acres of placer mining ground on the south side of Pritchard Creek between Osburn (for whom Osburn, Idaho was later named) and Murryville (later changed to Murray). Frank Points again endorsed the claim that same day, but it was not recorded until April 12, 1884 in Book "B" of placers on page 704. It was a claim on the south side of Eagle Creek near Eagle City. However, location papers did not reach the county recorder's office until June 25, 1884.

Wyatt, along with nine other locators and claimants, on the first day of May, 1884, located a very valuable lode mining claim named the "Golden Gate". It was situated on the right fork, (East Fork), of Reeder Gulch about half mile from the mouth of the gulch. This places the claim about eight miles from Eagle City, Idaho Territory. The Katie Burnett claim was on the north. The claim was endorsed by X.S. Burke on May 2. Wyatt's partners and fellow locators were: D.S. Ferguson (for whom Camp Ferguson was named), Al Holman, D.F. Hayes, C. Foley, J.E. Enright, J. Williams, R. Graham (for whom Graham peak was probably named), J. Cochran, and William Osburn (for whom Osburn, Idaho, located 4 miles west of Wallace was named). The claim, with a good quartz showing, ran 1500 feet up Reeder Gulch.

Another claim of great interest to this researcher is the "Consolidated Grisly Bear" located on the 10th day of May 1884. Wyatt stated that he "discovered a vein of quartz or sandstone rock in place, bearing gold, silver, and lead within the limits of the claim". His partners in this prospecting venture were B.A. Steward, J. Burke, S. Young, F. Bernart, W. Bender, W. Shelton, and J.E. Enwright. It is unknown who wrote out the notice of location, but the statement given to Aaron F. Parker, mineral recorder for the Coeur d'Alene District in which he swears that he is acquainted with the lode claim and its boundaries was sworn to and written by Wyatt Earp. How interesting that Wyatt's penmanship was extremely small, precise and legible. Of all the location notices that this author has read over the years, Wyatt's handwriting is the smallest.

But what did Wyatt and his group go through to attempt to locate the gold? "Men would often have to "climb the most rugged and difficult mountain; descend and cross the most rocky and dangerous canyons; endure fatigue and hardships; and brave privation and peril almost unknown at the present time." {8} In addition, to reach Eagle City one would have to travel through waist-deep snow some months of the year.

Several observations of Wyatt's organizational and mining ability stand out. First, he had the ability to surround himself with several prospectors with knowledge of the area and the geological formations and to be a leader of the community, much as he had been in Tombstone, Arizona. The hard work and enormous energy demands of mining and running a saloon must have been second nature to him after all the turmoil of his earlier years.

He must have enjoyed the escape from the demands of business and law enforcement so "they could, with their own hands, take the precious metal from the earth, and in a few brief months, perhaps, by their own labor, become the fortunate possessors of sufficient wealth to make a whole lifetime happy for themselves." {9}

However, for Wyatt, the urge to move on never left him for he soon left the district to move on to warmer climates. Nor did the urge to prospect ever leave him. He later prospected and mined, part of each year, in the area of Tonopah, Nevada. The last years of his life were spent in Parker, Arizona, far from the snow and bitter cold of Eagle City, Idaho Territory.

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1. Elisabeth L. Egenhoff. The Elephant As They Saw It. California Journal of Mines and Geology. October 1949. Page 6
2. Jerry Dolph and Arthur Randall. Wyatt Earp And Coeur d'Alene Gold.. Eagle City Publications. 1999. Page 70
3. Ibid, Page 90.
4. Ibid, Page 91.
5. Ibid, Page 141.
6. Ibid, Page 135.
7. Ibid, Page 123.
8. Elisabeth L. Egenhoff. The Elephant As They Saw It. California Journal of Mines and Geology. October 1949. Page 79.
9. Ibid, Page 79.

Note: the source materials for the various mining claims were located in the Shoshone County Courthouse, located in Wallace, Idaho. The original spelling has been retained in the quotations.

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Chapel at Fort Ross

RUSSIAN AMERICAN EMPIRE at *Fort Ross*

By Lena Taylor

Kee your eyes peeled, Noel says. You will see them as we come out of this bend." We are on HWY1 northbound, about eighty miles north of San Francisco. It is President's Day Weekend, and my husband Noel and I are heading up the coast for some R&R. The day is gray, with spells of sunshine as heavy clouds pass overhead. Not quite cold, but not warm, the air is balmy with mist from the Pacific Ocean. Looking out the car window, the horizon is a color block of gray sky meeting green grass; the hills are well nourished thanks to recent rain storms. Just as Noel predicted, two spires appear, punctuating the horizon line as we roll out of the bend in the road. They are made of wood, rough hewn yet streamlined semblances of a catholic cross, as if it had sprouted extra arms. "That's Fort Ross, I went there when I was a kid. It's kind of cool... you want to check it out?" I crane my neck and twist around as we pass them, hoping to see a little bit more of the buildings. Intrigued and game for a road trip experience, I agree and we head a little farther down the road before turning off.

The New Russian America

Seeking to dominate the lucrative seal and sea otter fur trade, the Russians explored the Northern Pacific in the mid 18th century. Two of these explorers, Gregorii Shelikov and I.L. Golikov created a settlement on Kodiak Island (present day Alaska) in 1784 and took control over the majority of the fur trade industry via charter of the Shelikhov-Golikov Company. Prospering off of the native hunters and the abundant fur resources, the S-G Company flourished and set up more outposts in the region. Shelikov returned to Russia in 1790, and sent his industrious assistant, Aleksandr Baranov, to manage the company in the new "Russian America." Shelikov's death in 1795 left his widow Natalia and partner Nikolai Rezanov to lead the firm, while keeping Baranov in the role of General Manager. Eventually, this operation became the Russian American Company (RAC). In 1799 Tsar Paul presented an edict authorizing the country's monopoly of the fur trade in the North Pacific via the RAC which included exploration, trade and establishment of new settlements. Baranov led this expansion and convinced native trappers to expand their territory. *"A man of enormous talent, courage, and stamina, who was both admired and feared by Russians, natives, and foreigners alike, Baranov was the main architect of Russia's southward expansion."*¹ By the beginning of the 19th century, the RAC had settlements extending past Alaska & the Aleutian Islands and southward to California and Hawaii.

Private Money for Pioneers

With this new power, the RAC's control over their new territories surpassed that of a corporation, and became much closer to an autonomous government.² And like a government authority, the company sought a means to pay their employees by creating change notes for use at their trading posts:

*"Goods and supplies in the company's stores were to be sold in exchange for the [notes], with certain restrictions on alcoholic beverages (the sale of which was rationed) and luxury articles. On payday, when the [notes] were distributed, company stores were to return the [notes] they had received during that period. Forgers of the [notes] were to be treated as criminals."*³

By creating their own medium of exchange, the RAC was able to create a closed economy, furthering their power and monopoly of the fur trade in Russian America.

The firm began issuing the first of five issues of notes in 1816. Other issues took place in 1822, 1826, 1834 and 1852. The first issue produced 12,000 Roubles, followed respectively by 30,000, 30,000, 30,000 and 80,000 Roubles during the four subsequent issues. Denominations were authorized in 10, 25, and 50 Kopecks, and 1, 5, 10 and 25 Roubles.

Also known as "Walrus Skin" money, some of the notes were printed on recycled walrus skin bags that were used to ship sea otter pelts to China; however most were issued on parchment.

Notes were manufactured by cutting the skin (or parchment) to size and stamping the RAC seal on the front. The seal was an oval frame with an image of the imperial Russian eagle in the center. The legend "Under the High Patronage of His Imperial Majesty" is contained within the oval; and below the oval, the denomination is listed in words. The backs of each note featured a wide, finely engraved black oval with the legend "Note in America" written in Russian, followed by an abbreviated denomination. Below sits an empty frame with "No" justified to the left, allowing space for a serial number to be handwritten. The oval is balanced by a shaded rectangle, which is almost the same width as the note itself. Here is where the issuer would place his signature, authorizing the note. Most notes were



1840's drawing of Fort Ross

square or rectangular; however some appear to have their corners cut purposely, resulting in an unequal hexagonal or octagonal shape.

These notes have been researched for over fifty years and the most comprehensive and recent reference, *The Alaskan Parchment Scrip of the Russian American Company* by Randolph Zander contains an up-to-date census.⁴ Both numbered and non-numbered notes exist, to equal approximately 100 notes extant. Although Zander's reference work acknowledges the 20 or so non-numbered notes, he only accounts for those with serial numbers on his census. There are about eighty pedigreed notes, with over half in museums. Today, these notes are extremely rare and it can be many years between the sale of such notes. Many of our nation's legendary collectors, such as John J. Ford, Henry Clifford & Captain E.G. Fast & F.C.C. Boyd have added these notes to their portfolio.

Going to California

As most land in California, the first people to the area where Fort Ross sits was inhabited by Native Americans called the Kashaya people; a

band of the Pomo Indians who occupied the land from the Gualala River in the north to a few miles south of the Russian River, and from the Pacific Coast to the confluence of the Warm Springs and Dry Creeks, about thirty miles inland. Central to the Kashaya civilization was the village of Metini, located near the site of Fort Ross.⁵ The Kayasha people's first encounter with the outside world was with the Russians who came to settle the land and expand their fur trading enterprise along the California coast.

In order to pursue fresh territory to find new resources for pelts,

Rezanov promptly responded to the needs of his people and purchased a ship from the Americans, stocked it with handmade utensils, artillery and resolved to enact trade in San Francisco in order to bring back wheat and other necessities. Of course, the standing law that said trade with foreigners was illegal turned out to be only a minor inconvenience in Rezanov's eyes. Upon anchoring in the San Francisco bay, he managed to encourage positive relations with the son of the Presidio's Chief Officer (as the Commandant was away), Don Luis Antonio Arguello, plus several missionaries. By the time the Commandant returned to the Presidio, Rezanov made his necessary trades and secured such a



Artillery Room inside the Rotchev House

Baranov launched an exploratory expedition south to California in 1803. The trip proved successful and reports back ensured plentiful seals and otters with (albeit lower quality) fur to sustain the industry, which was dwindling in the Alaskan areas. California also promised to provide a bounty of much needed provisions that Russian colonies in Alaska were desperate for.

Nikolai Rezanov, imperial chamberlain and son-in-law of Shelikhov, witnessed these needs first hand. As part of an inaugural naval circumnavigation, Nikolai was dispatched to the Alaskan settlements by Count Rumiantsev (a part of the Russian aristocracy who had taken over the RAC as majority stakeholders). After a particularly hard winter in which harsh weather blocked supply ships from Mother Russia from reaching their growing colonies in Alaska, Rezanov realized Alaska was nowhere near bountiful in essential elements to grow crops, farm, and yield adequate food, and missing these relief shipments left colonists in what Nikolai called a "disastrous situation."⁶

favorable position within the Spanish brigade, that the Commandant also saw him in a favorable light. Furthering his cause was his romance and subsequent marriage to Arguello's daughter, which cemented the Commandant's support for trade between Russian colonists and Spanish California. A formal request for approval was sent to Madrid as Rezanov set sail back to Alaska; provisions and new bride in tow.

On his way back, Rezanov took the opportunity to explore the Northern California Coast. Once he reached Alaska, Rezanov advised RAC's General Manager, Baranov, to settle "the one unoccupied stretch"⁷ of California coast about eighty miles north of San Francisco. This settlement would act as a base for trading in San Francisco, and provide land well suited for hunting and agriculture for export of food that would be vital to the Alaskan colonies.

Settling in New Territory

Convincing twenty five Russian colonists and eighty native hunters of Alaska to head south, Baranov employed his deputy Ivan Kuskov, to lead this group to the land Rezanov and his men had 'discovered'⁸. A series of voyages between 1806-1811 allowed Kuskov and company to land at Bodega Bay, which they dubbed Rumiantsev in honor of the Russian Count who was, by proxy, funding these efforts via the RAC. The men explored the area and in 1811 settled on a promontory accompanying a sandy cove as the site for the new settlement. The timber, soil, water, and open space, as well as the protective hillside in the back are noted as reasons for the location of the site.⁹

Fort Ross

In 1812, Kuskov set up port facilities at the Bodega Bay location while employing his team of laborers and local Indians to develop the new settlement site at Fort Ross. First to be erected was housing and a stockade. Using locally available redwood, Fort Ross was assembled in a quadrangle, 100 yards square. Two blockhouses, both two stories, occupied the opposite corners of the stockade. The northwest heptagonal structure housed five cannons with assorted artillery, while the southeast structure was octagonal, also containing several cannons and artillery.

Contained inside the stockade's walls were Kuskov's house, having two stories with an armory, five rooms and a kitchen. A Bostonian visitor in 1932 reported that, *it was comfortably, though not elegantly furnished, and the walls were adorned with engravings of Nicholas I, Duke Constantine, &c...*¹⁰ The official's quarters, paralleling the Pacific Ocean, consisted of ten rooms and was probably the first building erected inside the stockade walls. A cupola distinguishes the landmark wooden chapel, which was added between 1824-25. As a Mecca for visiting Russians over the years, the chapel has been rebuilt several times. The most recent version is the closest to the original, which can be seen from scenic Highway 1.

The Rotchev house was built from an existing basic structure for the second (and last) commandant, Alexander Rotchev. Apparently, Rotchev lived as luxuriously as possible in a frontier setting, with a *choice library, French wines, a piano, and a score of Mozart* (Duflot de Mofras, 1841).¹¹ Several other buildings existed inside the stockade including a fur warehouse, granary, kitchen, storehouse, jailhouse, and barracks and in the center, a large well. Immediately outside the stockade walls were several buildings: an inventory in 1841 by John Sutter accounts for 24 windowed dwellings with gardens, eight sheds, eight bathrooms, and ten kitchens. These were the living quarters for the company laborers. A large population of Native Alaskans, Kashaya

people and the Creole offspring -from unions between the Russian officers and native women- made up the majority of workers within the colony.

Further afield, two pigsties, a cowshed, corral, dairy, carpentry shed and another well and public kitchen were noted in the Sutter's accounting. Above the cove in a small canyon stood a house, shipyard, and a shed to hold *baidarkas* (the Russian word for the Aleut's version of a sea kayak). To the left of the canyon stood two gristmills and threshing facilities.

These mills, powered by wind rather than water, are known as the earliest windmills in California.¹² Below the bluff and along the creek was a forage and blacksmith shop, a tannery, cooperage and public bath. The fort was complete with an orchard and cemetery, the latter being the only outlying building to survive to the present day. The former, an orchard, are also some of the last remnants of the original fort, as the original apple, peach, pear, quince & cherry plantings pedigreed some of today's existing trees.

Claiming the Land

While the native Kashaya people occupied the land prior to the existence of Fort Ross, the influence of the Russian Orthodox Missionaries that operated in the Alaskan settlements had impressed upon the explorers to denounce cruelty and exploitation of native people by traders. Therefore, negotiating with the Kashaya for the use of a parcel of land, the representatives of the RAC founded Fort Ross in harmony with the native people. Within a short period of time a tri-cultural community was established, consisting of Russian administrators and workers, Aleut hunters, and the Kashaya, who were employed as laborers.

However it wasn't until 1817 that a formal treaty was completed between the native Kashaya and Russian colonists. Speculative theories consider the timing of this event to correspond with Spanish colonization and their northern expansion. Back in 1812, the political upheaval of the European and Mexican wars were a distraction to further expanding Spain's

colonization. Five years later, the Russians saw this timing opportunity to settle Fort Ross. Executive members of the RAC and Russian military proceeded to utilize trading and southward Russian expansion with the Spanish in San Francisco as a detractor to keeping their (Russian) claim of Fort Ross on the backburner. However, the Spanish had not forgotten Fort Ross and saw it as an obstacle to colonizing the rest of the land in Northern California. A change in the relationship between the Spanish and Russians was evident through a number of communications, and so the RAC attempted to avert a dispute regarding land ownership by formally enacting the verbal agreement made in 1812 by treaty with the Kashaya in 1817:



From top: Selected examples of RAC Notes. Front of 50 Kopek, back of 50 Kopek, yellow parchment 1 Rouble (front), 25 Kopek (front)

"TREATY" between the Russian-American Company and the Kashaya Pomio Indians, ceding land for Fort Ross.

On September 22, 1817, the Indian chiefs, Chu-gu-an, Amat-tan, Gem-le-le and others, appeared at Fort Ross by invitation. Their greeting, as translated, extended their thanks for the invitation.

Captain Lieutenant Hagemeister expressed gratitude to them in the name of the Russian-American Company for ceding to the Company land for a fort, buildings and enterprises, in regions belonging to Chu-gu-an, [land] which the inhabitants call Med-ery-ny. [Hagemeister] said he hoped they would not have reason to regret having the Russians as neighbors.

Having heard [what was] translated for him, Chu-gu-an and a second, Amattan, whose dwelling was also not far off, replied, "We are very satisfied with the occupation of this place by the Russians, because we now live in safety from other Indians, who formerly would attack us and this security began only from the time of [the Russian] settlement."

After this friendly response, gifts were presented to the Toion and the others: and to the Chief, Chu-gu-an, a silver medal was entrusted, ornamented with the Imperial Russian seal and the inscription "allies [soiuznye] of Russia" and it was stated that this [medal] entitles him to receive respect from the Russians, and for that reason he should not come to them without the medal. It also imposes on him the obligation of loyalty and assistance, in case this is needed. In response to that he and the others declared their readiness and expressed their gratitude for the reception.

After the hospitality, when [the Indians] departed from the fort, a one-gun salute was fired in honor of the chief Toion.

We, the undersigned, hereby testify that in our presence the chief Toion responded in exactly this way.

Navy Captain-Lieutenant and Cavalier Hagemeister

Staff doctor and Court Counselor Kerner

Commerce Counselor and Administrator of Fort Ross Ivan Kuskov

Assistant Navigator 14th class [Ivan M.] Kislakovskii

Company Agent Kirill Khlebnikov

Commercial Navigator Prokofii Tumanin

Life at the Fort

During the early years, life at Fort Ross revolved around fur trading. The settlement also established the beginnings of what hoped to be a prosperous farm that would yield abundant provisions not only for Fort Ross' growing population, but also for the established colonies in Alaska. Everyone in the vicinity of Fort Ross worked for the RAC.¹³ Laborers were mostly paid in RAC's company scrip that they could use to purchase other goods grown, harvested or made on site, or other items that were imported from the Alaskan colonies.

End of the Russian Epoch

Although every effort was put forth to create a thriving settlement at Fort Ross, several factors worked against the colony that ultimately led to the Russians leaving the area and selling the land to well known Gold Rush figure John Sutter. First, aggressive sea otter hunting activities early on in the years of settlement depleted the supply, and by 1820, Fort Ross was primarily focused on farming and agriculture. Despite some favorable conditions, the colony was never able to meet the agricultural needs of the RAC. Rodents, fog and what some call a lack of interest prevented a sustainable yield in crops and stock. Attempts were made in shipbuilding, and while initial results were impressive, it did not bring in long term profits that were substantial enough to offset deficits.

Despite his personal desires to keep the fort active, presiding General Manager Alexander Rotchev abided the RAC's ruling to liquidate and sell Fort Ross. Starting in 1839, Rotchev looked for prospective buyers, first offering it to the British Hudson Bay Company. When they refused, Rotchev moved on to the French, who sent French military attaché Eugène Duflot de Mofras to survey the fort's holdings in 1840.¹⁴ When the French declined, the RAC looked to the Mexican government for interest. Considering the land theirs, General Vallejo repudiated the offer on behalf of Mexico in hopes that the Russians would eventually abandon Fort Ross so Mexico could take possession of what they believed to be rightfully theirs. A tenacious Rotchev was determined to sell the fort and queried Captain John Sutter at his ranch in Sacramento in 1841.¹⁵ After a thorough survey of Fort Ross, Sutter agreed to buy the company's assets, but not the land (as it was Mexico's territory at that time) for \$30,000.00 to be paid in installments and produce.¹⁶ In early 1842 Rotchev and almost one hundred remaining colonists left Fort Ross for the RAC's outpost in Alaska. This brought a close to the Russian occupation of land in California.

After the Russians left, Sutter hired a team to disassemble the fort's assets and move them inland to his ranch. When California joined the union the fort's current manager, William Benitz, bought the land from Sutter and managed it as a successful farm until 1873, when GW Call purchased it and created a thriving ranch and community social center that included a post office, school, hotel and saloon. The Call family owned and operated Fort Ross and their expanded holdings of the surrounding acreage for almost 100 years. In 1903 Call sold the land that contained the stockade to the California Historical Landmarks League, and Fort Ross was named an historic park in 1906.¹⁷

Fort Ross Today

The State of California's preservation and restoration efforts have turned Fort Ross into a state historic monument. Since 1906, more acreage has been acquired (a total of 3,277 acres as of 1992) to preserve the site of the Russian settlement. Extensive restoration and reconstruction work has been carried out by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, so that today visitors can experience Fort Ross closely as it was when the Russians were here.¹⁸

(Endnotes)

1 Stephen Watrous, *The Cultural History Of Fort Ross, Outpost Of An Empire, Russian Expansion To America*. The Cultural History of Fort Ross, <http://www.fortrossstatepark.org> (March 11, 2010)

2 Stack's Auction Catalog, John J. Ford Collection, January 18, 19 2005 p. 78

3 P.A. Tikhmenev: *A History of the Russian American Company*, Vol 1, St. Petersburg, 1861

K.T. Khlebnikov: *Baranov, Chief Manager of the Russian Colonies in America, 1832*

4 Stack's Auction Catalog, John J. Ford Collection, January 18, 19 2005 p. 79

5

6 Stephen Watrous, *The Cultural History Of Fort Ross, Outpost Of An Empire, Russian Expansion To America*. Historic California Posts: Fort Ross, www.militarymuseum.org/FtRoss.html (March 12, 2010)

7 *ibid*

8 Although California was operating as a Spanish territory, the missionaries had not moved farther north than San Francisco, and although the British had claimed the land, they had yet to occupy it.

9 Author unknown, Fort Ross State Park Chronology, www.fortrossstatepark.org (March 14, 2010)

10 Fort Ross Interpretive, *The Fort Compound*, www.rtparks.mcn.org/fortross (March 14, 2010).

11 *ibid*

12 Glenn J. Farris, *California's First Windmills: The Russian Windmills Of Fort Ross* www.fortrossinterpretive.org/TEXT/WINDMILL%202007.pdf (March 21, 2010)

13 Stephen Watrous, *The Cultural History Of Fort Ross, Outpost Of An Empire, Russian Expansion To America*. The Cultural History of Fort Ross, <http://www.fortrossstatepark.org> (March 21, 2010)

14 *ibid*

15 *ibid*

16 *ibid*

17 *Fort Ross and the Sonoma Coast*, Lyn Kalani and Sarah Sweedler Arcadia Publishing September 6, 2004

18 Excerpted from *History of the Russian Settlement at Fort Ross, California* <http://www.parks.sonoma.net/rosslist.html>

Book Review

ARIZONA TRADE TOKENS

Submitted by SPPN Member Jim Vallier

The new 2010 Arizona Trade Token Catalog is now available. The author Peter Spooner has given us permission to publish the introduction of his new catalog in S.P.P.N. It provides S.P.P.N members a good introduction to Arizona Territorial Pioneer Minor Coinage.

INTRODUCTION

Arizona tokens were developed as a way of doing business in a local area. Tokens were not designed to be substitutes for money—instead they were used to solve economic needs of an area. Tokens were commonly made out of aluminum or brass and designated “Good For” a certain value. Merchants who used tokens were able to make money using tokens since the cost of an order was less than the actual coins. Also, merchants who used tokens got customers to return for more business.

In early Arizona, settlements by the military were designed as a home base for expeditions against hostile Indians. They also provided a place where settlers might find respite from attacks on their travels. On the military post, a store was operated to provide new provisions for the settlers and tokens were used by the trader also as a way to make small change in a remote location. It is speculated that the earliest tokens from Fort Mojave were made from cartridges that were rolled out and flattened at the blacksmith’s shop.

On Indian reservations, silver coinage was hammered into jewelry, thus tokens made of Aluminum or Brass were able to be used for commerce with the Indians by a licensed Indian Trader.

Tokens were commonly used in Saloons as the half-cent ceased to be in circulation after 1857. Thus if a customer wanted a drink which was 12 1/2 c, a quarter was placed on the bar and 12c was returned. The customer might be able to get another drink if the bartender remembered — however usually the customer left feeling cheated. The token was then used to create the 12 1/2 c value, which could not be done with coinage. Then a customer could place a quarter and get a drink and a 12 1/2 c token, good only at the saloon he was in. So if the customer left, the token given then promoted a return visit past all the other saloons in the town to get the next drink. The customer felt he was treated fairly; the token solved the half cent problem and advertised the saloon as well.

After saloons in Arizona were closed on December 31 1914, pool halls emerged using tokens like the saloons did to get customers to return. A person would get a handful of tokens to use in the billiard hall—what he did not use, could be used at a later time.

General Merchants in small local towns used tokens as a way to keep customers returning and to advertise the business. Merchants used multiple denominations instead of small coinage, thus the merchant made a better profit as the tokens cost less than the coinage.

Dairy tokens were created to solve the problem of customers leaving money in the milk bottle, and when the milkman arrived discovering the money was gone. So a customer would buy a group of tokens and then place the proper token in the milk bottle, instead of money.

Jerry Adams reviewed Peter’s book in the National Token Collectors Association issue 10-02 number 158 Feb. 2010. For NICA membership applications contact:

Clark Rohmer – Secretary

P.O. Box 281

Ormond Beach, FL. 32175





Lot # 1357, Obv.

[auction](#) [highlights](#)

[Eliasberg Sale: Cal Fractional Gold](#)

This chart shows prices realized from the Stack's Sale in New York March 2nd – 3rd 2010 where the famous Eliasberg California Fractional Gold coin and token collection was offered. The Eliasberg name has been associated with the finest in coin collections and is sought after by all types of collectors. Although Eliasberg's collection may not be considered the best or most complete collection of California Fractionals sold in the last decade; it is definitely amongst the most significant. As you will see below, the Eliasberg pedigree realized extremely strong prices and many were all time record highs!

Lot	Description	Service	Grade	Prices Realized
1337	1853 Octagonal 25¢. BG-102. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 63	\$748
1338	1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-105. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 65	\$1,150
1339	1855/4 Octagonal 25¢. BG-106. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 63	\$748
1340	1856-FD Octagonal 25¢. BG-107. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 63	\$748
1341	1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-108. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 62	\$546
1342	1856 Octagonal 25¢. BG-111. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	AU 58	\$431
1343	Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-206. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+.	PCGS	MS 63	\$863
1344	Quartet of California Small Denomination gold issues, all Liberty Head			\$1,265
1345	Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2.	PCGS	MS 64	\$920
1346	Undated (1854) Round 25¢. BG-224. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 62	\$374
1347	1853-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-302. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 62	\$5,750
1348	1853-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-304. Liberty Head. Rarity-5-.	PCGS	AU 58	\$805
1349	1854-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-306. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 65	\$2,760
1350	1856-N Octagonal 50¢. BG-311. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 64	\$2,990
1351	1856-N Octagonal 50¢. BG-311. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 62	\$690
1352	1852 Round 50¢. BG-401. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 62	\$633
1353	1853 Round 50¢. BG-418. Liberty Head. Rarity-7.	PCGS	MS 64	\$6,325
1354	1853-D Round 50¢. BG-421. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,265
1355	1853 Round 50¢. BG-430. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 63	\$776
1356	1854 Round 50¢. BG-431. Liberty Head. Rarity-5-.	PCGS	MS 62	\$1,265
1357	Undated (1853-54) Octagonal \$1. BG-501. Liberty Head. Rarity-5-.	PCGS	MS 63	\$11,500
1358	1853-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-505. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 63	\$4,888
1359	1854-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-507. Liberty Head. Rarity-6+.		SHARPNESS OF VF	\$460
1360	1854-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-508. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+.	PCGS	AU 55	\$1,955
1361	1855/4-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-511. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+.	PCGS	AU 58	\$1,150
1362	1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-514. Liberty Head. Rarity-5+.		SHARPNESS OF EF	\$1,840

1363	18S3-DER1 Octagonal \$1. BG-S14. Liberty Head. Rarity-5+.		SHARPNESS OF EF	\$978
1364	18S3-DER1 Octagonal \$1. BG-518. Liberty Head. Rarity-S.	PCGS	MS 61	\$2,760
1365	Pair of popular Period I octagonal Liberty Head dollars			\$863
1366	Quintet of California Small Denomination gold pieces			\$1,150
1367	18S4 Octagonal \$1. BG-532. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	AU 53	\$1,035
1368	18S9-FD Octagonal 25¢. BG-701. Liberty Head. Rarity-6-.	PCGS	MS 65	\$4,888
1369	1864 Octagonal 25¢. BG-706. Liberty Head. Rarity-5+.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,955
1370	1868 Octagonal 25¢. BG-711. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 64	\$920
1371	1870 Octagonal 25¢. BG-713. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 66	\$2,990
1372	1870 Octagonal 25¢. BG-713. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 64	\$633
1373	1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-717. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 66	\$1,380
1374	1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-722. Washington Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,955
1375	1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-72S. Liberty Head. Rarity-5+.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,093
1376	1873 Octagonal 25¢. BG-727. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+.	PCGS	MS 62	\$690
1377	Quintet of California gold issues			\$1,150
1378	1864-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-73S. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 62	\$633
1379	1866-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-737. Liberty Head. Rarity-S.	PCGS	MS 63	\$1,610
1380	1867-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-741. Liberty Head. Rarity-5.	PCGS	MS 62	\$863
1381	1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-7S9. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 62	\$546
1382	1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-763. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 62	\$489
1383	1876 Octagonal 25¢. BG-786. Indian Head. Rarity-6-.		AU 58	\$805
1384	1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-791. Indian Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 64	\$805
1385	1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-791. Indian Head. Rarity-3.		AU 58	\$403
1386	1874 Octagonal 25¢. BG-79S. Indian Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 63	\$633
1387	187S Octagonal 25¢. BG-797. Indian Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 64	\$748
1388	1868 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799T. Indian Head. Rarity-S+.	PCGS	MS 65	\$2,990
1389	1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799X. Indian Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 64	\$863
1390	18S9 Round 25¢. BG-801. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 64	\$633
1391	1866 Round 25¢. BG-804. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 66	\$3,220
1392	1868 Round 25¢. BG-806. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 66	\$1,610
1393	1870 Round 25¢. BG-808. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 64	\$748
1394	1871 Round 25¢. BG-809. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 66	\$3,220
1395	1872 Round 25¢. BG-814. Liberty Head. Rarity-5+.	PCGS	AU 58	\$546
1396	1873 Round 25¢. BG-817. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 66	\$2,990
1397	1872 Round 25¢. BG-818. Washington Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 66	\$7,475
1398	Liberty Head California Small Denomination gold threesome			\$690
1399	1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Liberty Head. Rarity-2.	PCGS	MS 65	\$2,300
1400	1871-L Round 25¢. BG-841. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,035
1401	Period II Liberty Head California gold threesome			\$1,064
1402	1872/1 Round 25¢. BG-869. Indian Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 64	\$805
1403	187S Round 25¢. BG-877. Indian Head. Rarity-S+.	PCGS	MS 64	\$978
1404	1881 Round 25¢. BG-887. Indian Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 66	\$2,530
1405	1881 Round 25¢. BG-887. Indian Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 65	\$1,380
1406	18S9 Octagonal 50¢. BG-901. Liberty Head. Rarity-6+.	PCGS	MS 65	\$4,888
1407	California Small Denomination gold Liberty Head quintet			\$1,265

1408	1867 Octagonal 50¢. BG-905. Liberty Head. Rarity-5-.	PCGS	MS 64	\$920
1409	1868 Octagonal 50¢. BG-906. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+	PCGS	MS 64	\$863
1410	1869 Octagonal 50¢. BG-907. Liberty Head. Rarity-5-.	PCGS	MS 64	\$805
1411	1870 Octagonal 50¢. BG-908. Liberty Head. Rarity-5.	PCGS	MS 63	\$633
1412	1871 Octagonal 50¢. BG-912. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	NGC	MS 61 PL	-
1413	1872 Octagonal 50¢. BG-914. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,840
1414	1873 Octagonal 50¢. BG-915. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,150
1415	1864-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-918. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 63	\$863
1416	1864-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-918. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 61	\$633
1417	1870-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-922. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 63	\$690
1418	1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-924. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,035
1419	1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-924. Liberty Head. Rarity-3.	PCGS	MS 63	\$546
1420	1874 Octagonal 50¢. BG-930. Liberty Head. Rarity-5.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,955
1421	1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-932. Liberty Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 63	\$748
1422	1870 Octagonal 50¢. BG-936. Liberty Head. Rarity-5-.	PCGS	MS 60	\$748
1423	1875 Octagonal 50¢. BG-946. Indian Head. Rarity-4.	PCGS	MS 63	\$1,150
1424	1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-950. Indian Head. Rarity-7.	PCGS	MS 65	\$7,475
1425	1878/6 Octagonal 50¢. BG-952. Indian Head. Rarity-5+.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,380
1426	1881 Octagonal 50¢. BG-956. Indian Head. Rarity-4+.	PCGS	MS 65	\$2,530
1427	1859 Round 50¢. BG-1002. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+.	PCGS	MS 64	\$1,035
1428	1859 Round 50¢. BG-1003. Liberty Head. Rarity-6+.	PCGS	MS 62	\$1,495
1429	1865 Round 50¢. BG-1005. Liberty Head. Rarity-5-.	PCGS	MS 63	\$1,610
1430	Quintet of round California gold half dollars			\$748
1431	1860/56 Round 50¢. BG-1014. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+.	PCGS	AU 58	\$633
1432	1876/5 Octagonal \$1. BG-1129. Indian Head. Rarity-4.		SHARPNESS OF MS	\$748
1433	1870-G Round \$1. BG-1203. Liberty Head. Rarity-5.	PCGS	EF 45	\$2,760

TOKENS

1434	Seven quarter sized EUREKA tokens,			\$518
1435	Quartet of EUREKA charms, all Mint State			\$518
1436	1872 Octagonal 25¢-sized. Washington Head charm. Baker-504A. Baker Rarity-8.		MS 64	\$518
1437	1872 Octagonal 25¢ sized, Washington Head charm. Baker-504A. Baker Rarity-8.		MS 63	\$633
1438	1872 Octagonal 25¢-sized, Washington Head charm. Baker-504A. Baker Rarity-8.		MS 62	\$518
1439	Indian Head California charm quartet			\$288
1440	1881 25¢-sized round. Garfield charm.		AU 55	\$1,840
1441	1883 \$1-sized round charm. Knights Templar. San Francisco Triennial Conclave.		AU 58	\$1,495
1442	1883 25¢-sized octagonal Miner charm. Q reverse.		MS 63	\$546
1443	1884 50¢-sized octagonal Miner Charm. H reverse.		MS 64	\$661
1444	1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition 25¢-sized round charm.		MS 63 PL	\$374
1445	1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition 50¢-sized round charm.		MS 62 PL	\$374

WEST's Auction: TOKENS FROM THE WILD WEST

Below are highlighted results from the Western States Token Auction, taken from the hundreds of lots featuring tokens from all over the Wild West! Including many rarities, the WEST'S Token Auction took place at the WEST'S Jamboree in Sacramento, California on Friday, March 12, 2010.

Lot # 1033 McGhee, Ark. Johnson Saloon c1895

Good for 1 drink \$300



Lot # 1054 Goddard, Ariz. Miners Exchange c1910

Good for 1 drink \$500



Lot #1063 Tombstone Ariz. Silver Dollar Saloon c1902

Good for 1 drink \$130



Lot # 1107 Grass Valley, Cal. Capital Saloon c1880

Strahle Billards \$1,700



Lot #1253 Vulcan, Colo. Pioneer Saloon c1905

12 ½ cents at the bar \$2,000



Lot # 1270 Idaho City, ID Miners Exchange Saloon c1905

Good for 1 drink \$200



Lot #1365 Miles City Montana Montana Saloon c1905

12 ½ cents \$50



Further Revelations on **The Eliasberg Fractional Gold Collection**



This is edited from a series of e-mails between Bob Lande and John Pack, of Stack's, concerning the Stack's March 2, 2010 auction of the 109 pieces in the Eliasberg California Fractional Gold coin collection, together with many other coins from Mr. Eliasberg and others.

Submitted by SPPN Member Cherie Schoeps

Q. Were all of the Eliasberg Cals from the Clapp collection?

A. [W]e have identified the certain ones in the catalogue, as these were specifically identified when we received them. After the sale, we discovered in the Clapp inventory listings that indicate nearly all of these are likely from that collection. Mr. Eliasberg seems to have had very little interest in collecting this series himself. We are presently studying and preparing for auction the Eliasberg correspondence and there is little mention of California Fractional gold coins.

Q. The Clapp coins clearly were owned by the father, Eliasberg senior.

But what about the other coins? Were they also part of the most famous collection in the history of numismatics? Or were they purchased and collected only by his son? Is there any way to tell?

A. Unfortunately, there is no way to tell for certain with some pieces.

However, based on the holders and the organization of the material, I think that just a few items were purchased by Lou, Jr. These include a few federal gold coins in NGC holders, and perhaps a couple of raw gold coins. The 3-legged nickel is also a likely possibility. The vast majority of the other material was part of the main collection, including the California Fractionals. The patterns and colonials are certain as well. Lou Jr. was not an organized collector of coins, but rather a bit of a "gold bug" who had a great deal of interest in bullion trading in any form, including modern world gold. He actively traded such material in the 1980s. I believe he also bought the Gold Certificates in the currency section. However, the vast majority of this material appears to have been undisturbed for many years.

Q. I could not help but notice how the only single type of coin that did not appear in the original Eliasberg sales were Cal Frac pieces! In fact, aren't the rest of the offerings in this Eliasberg sale just left overs? Still possibly important and rare, but in Eliasberg terms, just odds & ends. Except for the Cal Fraes!

Did Eliasberg Jr just have a thing for California Fractional Gold? Or did they just get separated somehow from the main coin collection? Put into the wrong box and overlooked for a generation?

A. I think few people gave much thought to the fact that this series was missing from the sales, but indeed it was! Additionally, there are important medallic items and non-gold world coins that have not been featured, but we will be selling these in further sales this year. The federal gold coins in this sale are mostly lots that were bought back by Louis, Jr. in 1982. However, none of the other material has been offered before aside from a random piece or two as mentioned earlier...probably fewer than 10 items in total. The patterns were duplicates to the main collection, the Virginia "penny" was apparently separated from the main collection

in error (a great rarity!), and no one seemed aware in recent times of the Myddelton token that I found hidden amongst some Conders.

There is no core collection of anything however, other than the Cal Fraes.

I don't think Louis Jr. knew anything about the Cal Fraes numismatically, and probably thought they had little value as individually packaged ones tended to be labeled with the Clapp cost (often less than \$5), and others were stored in envelopes with as many as 10 to 20 in the same envelope, organized loosely by denomination and shape. I think these were essentially ignored. There is no way Louis, Jr. collected these coins. No one paid much attention to them in recent times. However, it is clear that whoever collected them did pay careful attention, otherwise there would be a lot more duplication, but I would guess that it was long ago, perhaps prior to Clapp.

BRASHER BULLETIN NEWSLETTER DATES AND DEADLINES FOR 2010

Dear Advertisers and Columnists,

Please refer to the dates below, they are the last date we are able to accept ads & articles for each edition of the Brasher Bulletin in 2010.

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ARTICLES & ADS DUE 6/14/2010

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STACK'S DELIVERS RESULTS IN SALE OF ELIASBERG CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION GOLD!



This famous 1853-FD "Peacock"
reverse 50c, in MS-62 (PCGS),
realized \$5,750.



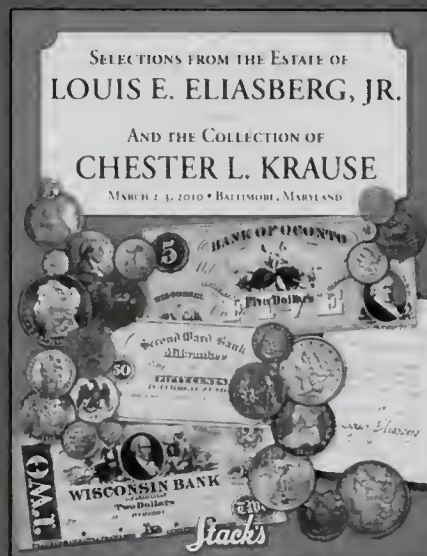
This MS-64 (PCGS) 1853
BG-418 Liberty Head 50c
realized \$6,325.



This MS-63 (PCGS) "Humbert
Eagle" Octagonal dollar
realized \$11,500.



This Choice Uncirculated
1853-FD BG-505 \$1
realized \$4,887.50.



Our March 2010 Sale in Baltimore featured property from the Louis E. Eliasberg, Jr. Estate, including highly desirable California Small Denomination Gold pieces. Our presentation of this material resulted in amazing prices realized and was another resounding success in the Stack's tradition!

Featured here is a selection of highlights from this sale. All photos are shown twice actual size, and prices include the 15% buyer's fee.

Stack's delivered results for this consignor and would be delighted to do the same for you.

Please contact us today to be a part of one of our upcoming sales.

June 14-16, Baltimore Sale

August 8, Boston Pre-ANA Sale

September 29-October 2,
Philadelphia Americana Sale



This Gem 1859 BG-701
Octagonal 25c
realized \$4,887.50.



This exceptional Gem 1872
Washington Head 25c
realized \$7,475.



This Gem MS-65 (PCGS)
Octagonal 50c, BG-901,
realized \$4,887.50.



This rare 1876 BG-950
Octagonal 50c in MS-65 (PCGS)
realized \$7,475.

Stack's

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